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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman,

At the last session of the General Assembly the Secretary-General was requested in a number of resolutions to organize special economic assistance programmes for 10 African countries. 1/ The resolutions also requested the Secretary-General to arrange for a review of the economic situation of each of these countries and the progress made in organizing and implementing the special programmes and to report thereon to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

In pursuance of the resolutions, the Secretary-General dispatched a mission to each of the countries concerned where intense consultations with government representatives took place regarding the country's economic and financial situation and the progress achieved in implementing the special assistance programme. The detailed findings of the missions are contained in the relevant

* Circulated in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 17th meeting, on 15 October 1979.

1/ Botswana, resolution 33/130; Cape Verde, resolution 33/127; Comoros, resolution 33/123; Djibouti, resolution 33/132; Guinea-Bissau, resolution 33/124; Lesotho, resolution 33/128; Mozambique, resolution 33/126; Sao Tome and Principe, resolution 33/125; Seychelles, resolution 33/129; Zambia, resolution 33/131.

reports 2/ of the Secretary-General which have now been published as General Assembly documents. I shall refer to some of the salient features of each report later in this statement.

The past year has not been an easy one for the countries for which we are organizing special economic assistance programmes. Adverse external forces beyond their control have had a serious impact on their already weak and vulnerable economies. Continued global inflation has increased the cost to them of imported food, fuel and manufactured goods. The cost of their imports has been rising while, in many instances, world prices of their exports have not risen at all or have declined. With the deterioration in the terms of trade, the exports of these countries have financed a smaller percentage of total imports. The situation has been reflected in deterioration in trade balances. In addition to these adverse economic forces, many of the countries have had to deal with a variety of natural disasters. These have taken the form of drought, hurricane and livestock diseases. They have all had adverse, sometimes devastating, effects on food and other agricultural production and, in some cases, on the volume of their exports. For some land-locked countries, serious transport bottle-necks in countries of transit have curbed the volume of their exports. The impact of these various factors, all beyond the control of the countries themselves, has exacerbated their already difficult balance-of-payments situations. There has been a run-down of foreign exchange reserves and, where these were already negative, a worsening of the position.

Internally, many of the countries are gravely handicapped - by inadequate infrastructure inherited on independence, by being excessively dependent on one export commodity, by lack of communications both within the country and with the rest of the world and by a critical shortage of trained manpower, both technical and administrative. The land-locked countries continue to encounter special difficulties in the transit of imports and exports. The island States have their own set of problems, arising from their size, their isolation, the dispersion of their populations and their inability to take advantage of large-scale economies in their economic and social development.

To compound their problems, some of the countries included in the programmes are bearing the additional burden of having to care for large numbers of refugees from neighbouring areas.

The efforts of the Secretary-General have been directed not only to reporting on the countries included in the programmes but also, as called for in the resolutions, to mobilizing international assistance on behalf of these countries. This has involved approaches to donor countries, United Nations organizations and

<u>2/</u> Botswana	A/34/419; S/13506	Lesotho	A/34/393; S/13485
Cape Verde	A/34/372 and Corr.1	Mozambique	A/34/377
Comoros	A/34/361	Sao Tome and	
Djibouti	A/34/362	Principe	A/34/371
Guinea-Bissau	A/34/370	Seychelles	A/34/373
		Zambia	A/34/407

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agencies, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions. Most of the funds provided by these sources have been given to the countries directly on a bilateral basis. A few contributions have been channelled through the United Nations special accounts which have been opened at United Nations Headquarters for this purpose.

All of the countries have endeavoured to interest potential donors in their programmes, with varying degrees of success. The United Nations, on its part, will continue to make representations to donor countries and agencies on behalf of the programmes in consultation with the Governments concerned. It has been our experience that countries with well-formulated projects have a much better prospect of obtaining positive response from potential donors. In this respect, the United Nations stands ready to give whatever assistance it can to Governments.

While there must be continued efforts to mobilize international assistance, it is important to appreciate the difficulties involved. The number of countries which are in a position to provide development assistance is limited and those which are able to do so have their own administrative and financial constraints, particularly with regard to establishing new bilateral assistance programmes. We have been informed by representatives of some donor countries that the possibilities of adding to the list of countries which would qualify for their bilateral assistance or increasing the amount of resources for bilateral programmes were not bright at the present time. Another difficulty reported was that some of the countries were too small to warrant an individual assistance programme. It would appear, therefore, that, unless donors make special allowance for these programmes, the recipient countries will have to look to increasing amounts of assistance from multilateral programmes.

It will be recalled that, during last year's debate in this Committee, some concern was expressed that the various organizations and agencies which support multilateral programmes either have no special provision or make an inadequate allocation of their resources for these special programmes. It was subsequently decided to "invite pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to bring to the attention of their governing bodies for their consideration the assistance they are rendering" and "to report the results of that assistance and their decisions ... for consideration of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session". These resolutions have been brought to the attention of the pertinent bodies. Their responses will be circulated during this session as a General Assembly document.

I am glad to report that, with regard to the humanitarian aspects of these programmes, the response of the international community has, in most cases, been prompt and positive. I would, at this stage, like to express on behalf of the Secretary-General his appreciation of the prompt and generous responses to his appeals from various Member States and international organizations. Their assistance has enabled many important projects recommended in the programmes to be realized. Unfortunately, the needs are many and it will require a much greater effort by the international community to complete the programmes which have been endorsed by the General Assembly.

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As requested by the Assembly at its last session, the Secretary-General has pursued the question of organizing donors' meetings. In this respect, preliminary discussions were carried out with Governments concerned and each was subsequently presented with detailed proposals which were formulated in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Bank. The reactions of the Governments are awaited.

A number of countries feel that their programmes are handicapped because they are not classified as least developed countries. They consider that the criteria approved by the General Assembly in 1971, and revised in 1975, did not take account of their special circumstances. At that time, they were still under colonial rule and their cases were considered on the basis of statistics which have no relevance to actual conditions inherited on independence. While the General Assembly has not classified them as least developed countries, it has, as an alternative, called upon Member States to accord them privileges and benefits. The Governments concerned have informed us that this formula has not brought about any additional assistance and they hope that the situation will be remedied.

With these introductory remarks, Mr. Chairman, I shall deal with the special economic assistance programmes in the order in which the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session, adopted the resolutions.

Comoros (A/34/361)

Earlier reports of the Secretary-General described the social and economic problems inherited at independence and recommended a programme of assistance to overcome the formidable set of obstacles to development in that country. The programme which consisted of 30 projects amounted to \$26 million, plus substantial technical assistance.

In April of this year a mission dispatched to the Comoros by the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/123, found that there had been no improvement in the serious economic situation. The annual budget deficit of about \$10 million remains by far the most serious economic problem facing the country.

Since assuming power in May 1978 the new Government of the Comoros has concentrated its attention on the problems of restructuring the administration, of reorganizing state enterprises and of introducing effective budgeting and accounting procedures. While this reorganization requires adequate staff, the Government has been able to keep additional expenditures to a bare minimum.

Two new concerns, however, have been identified. These are the burden of servicing a steadily increasing national debt and the problem of marketing the country's main export product, the ylang-ylang essence. The country's external trade deficit is of long standing. For the past decade, the value of exports has rarely been much more than half the value of imports.

The mission was informed that funding had been secured for about one third of the projects included in the special programme of assistance. These funded projects include the integrated development of the Nioumakeli area, the construction of food storage warehouses, supplementary hospital feeding, resettlement schemes, small livestock development, maize milling and agricultural training.

Further substantial assistance is urgently required for the other components of the programme, particularly for budget support, agricultural development, interisland air and sea transport links, strategic reserves of food and fuel, malaria eradication and hospital equipment and supplies. There is also a need for expanded training programmes.

The need to repair the fuel storage installations has become extremely critical. The latest estimate of costs for this project is approximately \$700,000, which the Government seeks urgently from the international community.

Guinea-Bissau (A/34/370)

The special economic assistance programme recommended for Guinea-Bissau totals more than \$38 million. In addition, considerable technical assistance and training are required.

The United Nations mission which reviewed the status of the programme in March of this year found that the international response to the needs of Guinea-Bissau had fallen short of the country's requirements. Of the 58 projects included in the programme, 21 have so far received partial or complete funding from external sources. Details of these projects as well as the sources of assistance are given in table 5 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Government has found it necessary to request the addition of several new projects to the programme, the most important of which relate to water transport and industry. Details of these projects are given in appendix II to the annex to the report.

The special assistance programme should be seen against the economic background of the country. Guinea-Bissau has been faced with the chronic problem of budget deficits since the time of its independence. However, to the Government's credit, it has been able, through a policy of stringent economy, to reduce the deficit in 1978 to a level substantially lower than in the previous year. In 1979 the Government hopes to reduce the deficit even further through higher levels of taxation and the extension of many taxes to new areas. Nevertheless, in spite of these new taxation measures, the Government does not foresee the possibility of a recurrent budget surplus providing resources for public capital investment.

With respect to the balance of payments, an over-all deficit of \$14 million for 1977 and 1978 was largely met by running down foreign exchange reserves, now at an unmanageably low level. In real terms, the projected level of imports in 1979 is significantly lower than in the previous two years and will make development extremely difficult. The need for additional foreign assistance, not

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only to meet the current short-fall of resources but also to eliminate accumulated payment arrears, is made clear from table 2 of the report.

Another pressing need stressed in the report is for an increase in food aid and assistance with developing an efficient storage and transport system for food.

Sao Tome and Principe (A/34/371)

The economic assistance programme for Sao Tome and Principe was reviewed by a United Nations mission in April of this year. It found that the Government had not been able to secure financing for its 1978 investment budget of \$19 million and that it will need external assistance to finance the programme.

The fragile state of its economy can be gauged from its heavy reliance on a single-crop export - cocoa. Last year, a prolonged drought caused production to fall to about three quarters of the previous year's level. It has been projected that, unless there is a significant increase in international assistance, the external current balance will go into deficit in 1979.

Sao Tome and Principe will have to import additional quantities of food in 1979 and early in 1980 in order to cover the losses in food production which resulted from drought and from a severe outbreak of African swine pest in March this year. The outbreak has affected most families on the islands, since pigs are raised as a principal item of subsistence. The Government's estimates of its food requirements for 1979 are set out in table 4 of the report of the Secretary-General.

The special economic assistance programme endorsed by the General Assembly for Sao Tome and Principe amounted to approximately \$21 million. In addition, there is need for a considerable amount of technical assistance and training. The thrust of the programme is directed to the development of the transport sector. The Government is anxious to develop adequate sea and air transport facilities between the two islands and with the African mainland. To this end, projects are designed to construct or improve airport runways, replace existing aircraft by more adequate ones, improve port facilities and obtain a number of interisland and coastal vessels and barges. A number of other important projects are designed to develop agriculture, forestry and fisheries, to promote industry and to complete the various surveys necessary for the systematic exploration for minerals and other resources. The Government also wishes to resume petroleum exploration.

In the social sector, a number of important projects are devoted to improving the education system and to the establishment of a comprehensive health service structure.

Mozambique (A/34/377)

It should be recalled that the programme of assistance for Mozambique was originally formulated to help Mozambique cope with the economic consequences of applying sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and to remedy some of the grave social and economic problems inherited on independence. However, in addition to coping with that situation, the Government has had to deal with attacks and incursions by the forces of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia - attacks which have continued throughout the past 12 months. These attacks, which have been aimed at refugee camps as well as at vital installations and communications, have led to the loss of many lives and to widespread destruction.

The mission which the Secretary-General dispatched to Mozambique in May of this year, in response to General Assembly resolution 33/126, found that there had been no improvement in the economic situation in Mozambique. The most critical economic problem continues to be the large balance-of-payments deficit. Some \$188 million in additional international assistance was required to meet the projected over-all balance-of-payments deficit for 1978.

In addition, two other concerns need to be emphasized. First, Mozambique is facing a critical food shortage as a result of damage caused by hurricane "Angela", and a prolonged drought which has affected six provinces. Second, assistance is required for the large number of Zimbabwean refugees in Mozambique, now estimated to exceed 120,000.

While there was an encouraging response by the international community to the needs of Mozambique in the first year of the programme, subsequent years have seen a marked decline in the flow of assistance. This is unfortunate, as Mozambique's economic situation continues to be critical and the Government cannot hope, under present circumstances, to finance any normal development programme from its own resources. Approximate values of some of the food, project and programme assistance received by Mozambique in 1978 are shown in table 10 of the report of the Secretary-General.

In relation to the 42 urgent projects identified in the report of the Secretary-General to the last session of the General Assembly (A/33/173), only 20 have so far attracted international funding, either in whole or in part. The Government is therefore seeking an additional \$15.4 million in foreign assistance so that implementation of the remaining 22 projects can begin this year. The projects to be financed include water supplies, dam construction and land irrigation.

It is quite evident that the Government of Mozambique will require urgent assistance to repair the widespread damage inflicted on the country and the economy by the Southern Rhodesian forces. Arrangements will be made to keep the international community informed of any request for assistance that might be received from the Government of Mozambique in this connexion.

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With regard to the refugees in Mozambique, an additional sum of \$3 million will be required during 1979 to help the Government provide for their care and welfare.

While the Government has purchased a substantial portion of its food requirements for 1979, there is still an outstanding balance of 32,000 tons of wheat, 183,000 tons of maize and 37,400 tons of rice. In view of the severe foreign exchange shortage and the constraints on its own agricultural production, the Government hopes that this balance can be met by food aid.

Cape Verde (A/34/372 and Corr.1)

I should like to turn now to the case of Cape Verde. The special economic assistance programme for Cape Verde which was fully endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session was designed to expand and strengthen the country's economic and social base. It took into account the impact on its economy of 10 years of drought, its precarious food situation, its severe unemployment and its critical situation in balance of trade and government finances.

The special assistance programme recommended in the report amounted to about \$95 million. Technical assistance and training were also required. This programme is by no means large in relation to the extent and nature of Cape Verde's social and economic problems.

The report of the United Nations mission which visited Cape Verde in March this year observed that one of the country's most serious economic problems was the continuation of the substantial trade deficits. Exports have rarely exceeded 5 per cent of imports. Further, the trade deficit has been steadily increasing over the past four years and is projected to increase again in 1979. While the Government's recurrent budget deficit continues to be a serious problem, it is encouraging to see that through carefully controlled expenditure it has been possible to reduce the deficit. It is clear, however, that the funds necessary to finance the investment budget for 1979 of \$53 million cannot under present circumstances be generated from the recurrent budget. These two problems underscore Cape Verde's heavy dependence on private transfers and foreign assistance for its development.

The programme of assistance consists of 70 projects. Unfortunately, the response of the international community has been far short of Cape Verde's needs. Only 10 of the 70 projects have been financed in whole or in part by foreign assistance. In the economic area, the major assistance required is for agriculture, water and soil development, road and marine transport, and the development and exploitation of its fisheries and mineral resources. In the social sector, substantial assistance is required for education, health and urban development. It will be noted from the report that infant mortality is as high as 100 per 1,000, more than five times the rate in most developed countries.

The food situation in the islands has become critical. The absence of rains in August and September this year has resulted in total crop failure. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been requested to send a mission to assess the magnitude of the disaster, to define the extent of food need and to co-ordinate the provision of assistance. It is earnestly hoped that the international community will respond promptly and generously to any appeals that may be made in this regard.

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Lesotho (A/34/393; S/13485)

The United Nations programme for Lesotho has continued to receive generous support from the international community. When the programme was first initiated in January 1977, it was designed to provide Lesotho with a more adequate infrastructure, to increase food production and to lessen dependence on South Africa. Since then, political developments have necessitated additional projects to reduce the effects of the pressure that were being applied by South Africa through its creation of Bantustans on areas adjacent to Lesotho's borders.

The mission which the Secretary-General dispatched to Lesotho in May this year found that the international community had provided or pledged close to \$123 million in financial, material or technical assistance to Lesotho in the context of the United Nations Special Assistance Programme. This represents an increase of \$23 million since June 1978. There have been important contributions for Lesotho's road programme, construction of the national airport, the establishment of a road haulage fleet and the extension of Lesotho's labour-intensive development programme.

Other assistance provided or pledged in the 12 months ending in May 1979 included support for the national referral and general hospital, rural clinics, the wool and mohair industry and the mountain region food reserve.

However, as the report of the Secretary-General points out, many ongoing projects are only partially funded and assistance is urgently sought for their completion.

The Government of Lesotho has drawn up its Third Five-Year Development Plan and hopes to launch it in the very near future. Its aim is to reduce the dependency of Lesotho on South Africa and to promote for the country a greater degree of self-sufficiency. With this goal, the Government has proposed the inclusion of new projects in the programme designed to increase Lesotho's self-sufficiency in food production and energy and to improve telecommunications. These are explained in detail in the Secretary-General's report. The Government is particularly anxious to receive assistance to enable it to proceed with the establishment of a silo storage for maize reserve and an integrated maize mill and animal feeding stuffs factory. Another new project entails the provision of fertilizer and seed. Its purpose is to increase agricultural output and achieve greater self-sufficiency in food production while the modern crop production programme is being restructured within the framework of the country's Third Five-Year Development Plan.

Seychelles (A/34/373)

The economic and social development problems facing Seychelles can be readily appreciated by the fact that it has a land area of only 438 square kilometres, dispersed over nearly 100 islands, in a total land and sea area which exceeds 1 million square kilometres. The provision of transport, communication, social services and general government administration in such circumstances is costly and constitutes a heavy drain on the Government's limited resources. With few exceptions, food, manufactured goods, fuel and construction materials are imported and the economy is extremely vulnerable to world inflation. Dependence on the tourist industry is virtually complete.

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Largely as a result of the growth of the tourist industry and the inflow of foreign capital, the over-all balance of payments of Seychelles has shown a small surplus in each year from 1974 to 1977. However, in 1978 there was an over-all deficit and a fall in foreign exchange reserves. As a consequence of the large current account deficit projected for 1979, it follows, therefore, that unless Seychelles receives additional foreign assistance, or a significant increase in the inflow of private capital, foreign exchange reserves will fall further in 1979.

The special economic assistance programme recommended for Seychelles involved 27 projects. These projects are designed to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure by improving communication facilities, developing water supplies, constructing housing and public buildings, expanding electric power supplies, installing sewage systems in urban areas and expanding pre-school education. Unfortunately, the response of the international community had not been commensurate to the needs of the Seychelles. Of the 27 projects included in the programme, only four have been fully funded by external assistance, and partial financing has been arranged for seven. Five other projects are the subject of advanced negotiation.

Botswana (A/34/419; S/13506)

The situation in Southern Rhodesia continues to have an adverse impact on Botswana's development programme. In 1977, when the Botswana Government complained to the Security Council that the situation on its border required the diversion of development resources to defence, the Council endorsed an assistance programme. This programme was designed to ensure the continuation of development projects affected by the situation and to finance additional projects necessitated by the emergency. The mission which the Secretary-General dispatched to Botswana in May of this year found that the security situation had worsened. Since last year's report, attacks against Botswana had increased and there were constant threats against Botswana's lines of communication. The situation has made it necessary for the Government of Botswana to revise some of the projects in the original programme of assistance and to establish others.

There are four projects which the Government of Botswana considers to be of strategic national importance and for which financing is required. One is the contingency plan for the emergency operation of the railway at a cost of \$31.4 million. The second is the completion of the Botswana/Zambia road. The third project is the construction of a national airport capable of accommodating jet aircraft of the Boeing 707 type at a cost in the range of \$30 million to \$37 million. The fourth is for a three to four months' reserve of oil supplies for the country. Assistance required in this regard is confined to filling cost since the storage facilities at Gaborone and Francistown have already been funded. In addition to these essential emergency projects, assistance is required to deal with the refugee situation.

While Botswana still requires substantial assistance from the international community, mention should be made of the response made so far to the appeals. The Government of Botswana has informed the United Nations that the international community has pledged or provided assistance totalling \$65 million for recommended projects since the programme was first launched. This includes assistance to deal

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with the large influx of refugees from Zimbabwe which now exceed 20,000. Negotiations are in progress for significant amounts of assistance in respect of the railway and the national airport. Although the international response has been encouraging, substantial assistance is required to complete the programme.

Zambia (A/34/407)

The special economic assistance programme for Zambia was initiated in response to a resolution of the Security Council to assist Zambia to meet the heavy burden of applying sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and to carry out its normal development programme. The direct money cost to Zambia of applying sanctions for the period up to the end of 1979 is estimated at about \$1 billion. Unfortunately, Zambia has had to contend not only with the sanctions aspect but with continuous attacks and incursions by Rhodesian forces and with the burden of caring for large numbers of Zimbabwean refugees.

Previous reports have pointed out that, in spite of the efforts of the Government of Zambia and the assistance which has been provided by the international community, it has not proved possible for Zambia to pursue a normal development programme as was envisaged by the Security Council in resolution 277 (1970), when it appealed to the international community to assist Zambia.

When the Zambian programme was discussed by this Committee last year, I stated that if Zambia was to meet its priority short-term needs, make a beginning on the introduction of a longer-term development programme and significantly reduce the payments arrears which had accumulated, some \$850 million in assistance was required for 1978 and 1979 in addition to the funding and loans which had already been pledged. The major types of assistance required to meet the short-term situation were assistance in eliminating transport bottle-necks, balance of payments and general programme assistance to overcome the acute shortage of foreign exchange, and increased assistance to cope with the large number of refugees in the country. To begin the longer-term development programme, assistance was recommended for development programmes and projects costing some \$280 million.

A number of steps were taken during 1978 to implement some of the major components of the recommended programme for assistance. The first meeting of the Consultative Group for Zambia, organized by the World Bank, was held in Paris in June. During the year, major bilateral assistance agreements totalling nearly \$400 million were entered into although, in many cases, disbursements will take a number of years.

A number of steps have also been taken to improve the transport system. Additional technical assistance was arranged for the TAZARA railway, assistance was provided or pledged to increase the capacity of the port at Dar es Salaam and the Government of Zambia purchased 200 new trucks as well as spare parts to increase the capacity of road transport. International assistance has been pledged towards revitalizing the Lobito route from Zambia through Zaire and Angola, and efforts were made to increase the use of routes through Malawi and Mozambique.

Unfortunately, the international assistance provided to Zambia during 1978 was not sufficient to meet its requirements. In spite of the stringent controls of Government expenditure and imports as part of Zambia's stabilization programme, foreign payment arrears continued to accumulate and, by the end of the year, were about \$140 million above the previous year's level. During the same period, the net foreign exchange reserves position, already negative, deteriorated further.

The mission which the Secretary-General dispatched to Zambia in May of this year was informed that the major problems facing Zambia continued to be a shortage of foreign exchange and the transport of vital imports and exports.

Broadly speaking, the additional assistance required by Zambia in 1979 amounts to approximately \$200 million in the form of grants or soft loans for balance-of-payments support and general programme assistance. Having regard to the need to reduce the payments arrears and rebuild foreign exchange reserves, and to increase imports in the interest of longer-term development, Zambia will require nearly \$800 million in additional assistance between now and the end of 1980.

Djibouti (A/34/362)

The United Nations mission which visited Djibouti in April this year to review its assistance programme found that the process of strengthening and diversifying the economy had gathered momentum. Considerable attention has been given to those projects in the programme designed to improve the port facilities of Djibouti and to enhance its capacity for handling container traffic. Progress has been made in preparing irrigation schemes, in developing water resources and in projects for red seaweed production and the construction of a mineral water plant.

Preparatory work on a number of other projects designed to diversify the economy, but not included in the programme, has also gone ahead. One of these relates to the proposal to set up a cement plant near Ali Sabieh. A detailed study of the project has already been prepared by a firm of international consultants. In the first phase, the output of the plant will be about 300,000 tons annually, with the major proportion being available for export. The Government of Djibouti attaches considerable importance to the project, since its realization would constitute an important element in the diversification of the economy and in the country's utilization of resources, both labour and material.

The programme of assistance endorsed by the General Assembly was estimated to cost \$114 million. During its recent visit, the United Nations mission found that considerable external assistance had been provided or pledged to Djibouti and this had enabled a beginning to be made with many of the projects included in the programme. In addition to direct and indirect contributions towards meeting its recurrent budget deficit, project funding and pledges during 1978 and 1979 had totalled nearly \$90 million. About three quarters of this amount had either been pledged or provided by Saudi Arabia. Other major sources of assistance included France, the European Development Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

A sum of approximately \$20 million is required to finance the balance of

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projects in the assistance programme. This excludes the cost of technical assistance and training which could be considerable because of the lack of local professional and technical personnel.

In addition to strengthening its economy, Djibouti requires considerable assistance to deal with the presence of approximately 30,000 refugees currently in the country. The presence of so many refugees both in the capital itself and in the rural areas poses serious problems. Many of the refugees are children who require education. Others are adults without any form of vocational training. They all require adequate food, shelter and medical services. Moreover, they require the means and opportunities of earning a livelihood. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is working closely with the Government on this matter, but increased international assistance is required to meet the basic needs of the refugees. The report of the Secretary-General addresses itself to this problem in some detail.

Assistance to Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent
(A/34/563)

This, Mr. Chairman, completes my review of the programmes in the 10 African countries. I turn now to the matter of assistance to Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent.

It will be recalled that the General Assembly adopted resolution 33/152 on this matter. The resolution emphasized the urgency of international assistance to strengthen the economies of these islands and called upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take adequate steps to establish and finance an appropriate programme of development. A further request was addressed to the international community to increase their programmes of assistance.

The statements annexed to the report of the Secretary-General provide information on the assistance provided under bilateral programmes, including the programme of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They also include information on the assistance provided by the United Nations system and a number of intergovernmental organizations.

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Mr. Chairman,

I have completed my review of the various programmes that have been established as a result of resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly. I wish now to invite the attention of this Committee to the problems of a number of countries which this year requested the Secretary-General to appeal for international assistance on their behalf to overcome serious difficulties stemming from either abnormal political conditions in their region or from natural catastrophe.

The first situation relates to the sister countries of Rwanda and Burundi. As

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land-locked countries, they have been faced with a critical situation as a result of the disruption of the transport of their imports and exports in consequence of the recent conflict in Uganda. Both countries have had to utilize air freight to import essential food and materials and to transport their exports. Major development programmes have been interrupted by shortages of essential supplies. Although some assistance has been provided in response to the Secretary-General's appeal in March of this year, there is still an urgent need for additional aid to help these countries cope with their critical transport problems and with the disruption of their development programmes.

The second situation relates to Uganda. Following a request by the Government of Uganda to the Secretary-General in June this year, a mission organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited Uganda to assess the immediate humanitarian needs of returning refugees and of the people who had been displaced as a result of the fighting. The report of the mission was made available to interested donors and the Secretary-General launched an appeal in July for \$13.3 million to meet the immediate needs. Regrettably, the response of the international community to the appeal has not been as prompt as had been expected. Contributions are urgently needed to provide food, medicines, shelter and potable water to the affected people.

On the economic side, I should like to draw your attention to a donors' meeting which is to be convened in November in Paris, under the auspices of the World Bank. The meeting will endeavour to mobilize international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Ugandan economy.

The third situation relates to Equatorial Guinea. Last month, following the change of Government in Equatorial Guinea, the Secretary-General received an urgent letter from the new President requesting United Nations assistance to deal with the critical economic and social situation that had developed in that country. This situation has been fully described by the representative of Equatorial Guinea in his statement to the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General has alerted the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to the problem. In addition, the Secretary-General has arranged for an inter-agency mission to visit Equatorial Guinea to consult with the Government on the formulation of an emergency programme of humanitarian assistance which will be brought to the attention of the international community. That mission is currently in the country.

The fourth situation relates to Chad. Its representative has described in detail to the General Assembly the disastrous combination of circumstances that has led to that country's appeal for assistance from Member States and international organizations. Land-locked and situated in the drought-ridden Sahelian region, the country has undergone 13 years of armed struggle. Many basic requisites of life are absent. The country's needs for humanitarian assistance as well as assistance for economic and social reconstruction are most urgent. The Secretary-General has already alerted the pertinent organizations and agencies of the United Nations system of the country's humanitarian needs. The question of providing a United Nations-sponsored programme of economic reconstruction will require the immediate attention of all concerned.

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In concluding this statement, I should like to express on behalf of the Secretary-General his deep appreciation for the consideration and assistance which have been accorded to these various programmes.

The countries concerned are severely handicapped in their development efforts by forces and events beyond their control and need the full understanding and co-operation of the international community to help them overcome their special difficulties. Without this support, projects vital to their development and welfare will either be long delayed or will have little prospect of ever materializing.

The Secretary-General is confident that all Member States and international organizations will give their urgent attention to the special needs of these countries and respond generously to the appeals that have been made on their behalf. I thank you.
